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PROPOSED RESPONSE

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

On October 5 of this year I had the great privilege and honor of signing into law a Joint Resolution of the United States Congress making Raoul Wallenberg of Sweden an honorary citizen of the United States. It is with deep pride that I and my fellow countrymen welcome such a distinguished and courageous Swedish citizen into our own citizenry. I should point out that Sir Winston Churchill, another man of greatness and purpose, is the only other person who has received honorary United States citizenship.

Raoul Wallenberg personifies the ideal of uncompromising determination in the furtherance of human dignity and freedom. As he strived to obtain freedom for so many others during the dark days of Nazi Germany, it is only right that free people everywhere work to obtain his freedom. I have thus directed that my Administration take all possible steps to ascertain his whereabouts and secure his release to freedom.

During the signing ceremony at the White House I said about Raoul Wallenberg that "wherever he is, his humanity burns like a torch". We must ensure that this torch of freedom continues to burn brightly and that it will be passed on from one generation to another.

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Therefore, I propose that the peoples of Sweden and the United States join together to create the Raoul Wallenberg Award for Human Freedom. If you agree, we would explore together the formation of a joint Swedish-U.S. commission of prominent citizens to administer the Award which would be given to an individual or group who had made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of human rights and freedom. Like the Nobel Prize, an established amount of money could accompany the Award. I am certain the funds could be raised from private contributions. The Award could be given on an "as merited" basis rather than annually.

We face many challenges throughout the world which demand conviction and courage from all of us. The Raoul Wallenberg Award for Human Freedom could be an effective torch and beacon for the struggle for freedom everywhere. I would be pleased to explore this idea further with you and your Government.

Ronald Reagan

His Excellency
Thorbjorn Falldin
Prime Minister of Sweden
Stockholm

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